

# FACT SHEET



## Mid-America Tanning Superfund Site Woodbury County, Iowa

October 2000

### UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the ground water at the Mid-America Tanning (MAT) Superfund site. The site is located in Woodbury County, Iowa, about seven miles south of Sioux City and four miles south of Sergeant Bluff.

The ROD states that previous removal and remedial actions performed at the site have eliminated health concerns from exposure to ground water at the site. Therefore, no further action is necessary to address the ground water at the site.

Although hazardous substances remain onsite, they will not adversely impact the ground water quality. The site will continue to be evaluated periodically by EPA to ensure that human health and the environment remain protected. EPA will conduct the next review of this site by September 30, 2003.

### SITE BACKGROUND

The approximately 100-acre MAT site is located in an industrial area known as the Port Neal Industrial District. The hide tanning conducted at the site from 1970 to 1989 generated a wastewater stream containing high levels of chromium. Contaminated sludges were also generated at the site's wastewater treatment plant and deposited in basins and lagoons, buried in trenches, and land farmed on the site. Spills and overflows from the wastewater treatment plant also caused chromium contamination in surrounding soil.

In 1989, the site was placed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL), a list of the nation's highest priority sites eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. In 1990, removal actions were taken to excavate sludges, treat waste solutions, and decontaminate buildings. An investigation of the contamination at the site was completed in 1991. Contaminants such as chromium, arsenic, barium, and lead were found at the site.

In 1991, after public comment, a Record of Decision (ROD) that presented the remedy for the site was issued. The ROD called for the most contaminated sediment and soil to be immobilized in place, less contaminated soil to be placed underneath a soil-clay cap, and treatment and discharge of the contaminated water in the impoundments. The ROD also stated that ground water would be addressed separately and recommended further monitoring.

The ROD was amended in 1996 because hydrogen sulfide gas was discovered at concentrations that posed health risks and portions of the original remedy could not be carried out as planned. The amendment resulted in all of the contaminated sediment and soil being consolidated in two locations and capped. EPA and the Foxley Cattle Company have conducted the work at the site.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The ROD and Responsiveness Summary are available for public review. The Responsiveness Summary includes a summary of oral and written comments EPA received during the public comment period on the proposal to take no further action for the ground water at the site and EPA's responses to those comments. The ROD and the Responsiveness Summary are available for review at the Sergeant Bluff City Hall, 401 Fourth Street, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa, and at EPA Region 7.

If you have questions or need additional information about this site, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator  
Office of External Programs, EPA Region 7  
901 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
Telephone: 1-913-551-7003 or Toll-free 1-800-223-0425  
Fax: 1-913-551-7066, E-mail: [huffman.diane@epa.gov](mailto:huffman.diane@epa.gov)